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## Second Training Division in the Volga Military District, USSR (S)

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## **SECOND TRAINING DIVISION IN THE VOLGA MILITARY DISTRICT, USSR (S)**

1. (S/D) The 43rd Motorized Rifle Division\*<sup>1</sup> (MRD) in the Kuybyshev area of the Volga Military District (MD) in the USSR is presently listed as being in category III status;<sup>1</sup> however, analysis reveals that it is actually a well-equipped training division. The 43rd MRD is the second motorized rifle training division in the Volga MD; the other is in the Kazan area. The units subordinate to the 43rd MRD are at Kuybyshev Army Barracks Kryazh AL-5 [redacted] Kuybyshev Training Area 1 [redacted] and Buzuluk Army Barracks [redacted]. During the past three years, barracks and vehicle storage areas have been upgraded and expanded and now provide adequate space to house a training division. The greatest expansion in covered vehicle storage capacity has occurred at Kuybyshev Training Area 1. The total covered storage capacity for the division is approximately 1,530 vehicles and the open vehicle storage capacity is about 1,000, for a total capacity of 2,530 vehicles.

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2. (S/D) In addition to the equipment used for daily training, well-equipped training divisions have complete equipment sets in storage which would probably be mobilized with cadre personnel and local reservists. The result would be a rapidly mobilized combat division and sufficient equipment and personnel to continue training. The unit equipment sets for the 43rd MRD are probably stored in the extra vehicle storage sheds.

3. (S/D) All three motorized rifle regiments (MRRs) subordinate to the 43rd MRD have been upgraded with BMP armored personnel carriers (APCs). One appears to be totally BMP equipped, while the other two have BMP and other types of APCs. Such a mixture of APCs is common for training divisions but not for conventional MRDs. The typical configuration for a ready MRD is one BMP-equipped MRR and two BTR-60PB equipped MRRs.

4. (S/D) Shifts of units to facilitate the training of troops have taken place during the past year. Between the beginning of March and mid-May 1980, the antiaircraft artillery (AAA) regiment consisting of twenty-five 57mm antiaircraft (AA) guns S-60 was transferred from Kuybyshev AL-5 to Buzuluk Army Barracks. The MRR at Buzuluk Army Barracks was moved to Kuybyshev Training Area 1. [redacted]

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5. (S/D) The wide variation in the number of vehicles observed in the MRR areas at Kuybyshev AL-5 in the past year is an indication of ongoing training. Also, the major expansion of living quarters at Kuybyshev Training Area 1 allows the number of personnel available for training to be increased.

6. (S/D) Units for the 43rd Training MRD and their locations follow:

### **Kuybyshev Training Area**

Motorized rifle regiment (BMP and BTR-60 equipped)

Tank regiment

Motor transport battalion (elements)

### **Kuybyshev AL-5**

Motorized rifle regiment (BMP)

Motorized rifle regiment (BMP, BTR-152, and BTR-40)

Motor transport battalion (elements)

Maintenance battalion

\*All numerical unit designators used in this report were acquired from reference document 1.

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Medical battalion  
 Engineer battalion  
 Signal battalion

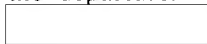


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**Buzuluk Army Barracks**

FROG battalion  
 AAA regiment (57mm AA gun S-60)  
 Artillery regiment  
 Multiple rocket launcher battalion

7. (S/D) Kuybyshev Training Area 1 underwent significant changes during the past three years. There was a major expansion in covered vehicle storage capacity and barracks/administration space (Figures 1 and 2). The covered vehicle storage capacity has increased by approximately 160 vehicles since September 1977, and now has a total covered storage capacity of approximately 400 vehicles. The MRR vehicle park accounts for approximately 120 vehicles of this increase. The open storage capacity is about 300 vehicles bringing the total capacity to approximately 700 vehicles. Elements of the MRR have been present since September 1977, but increased covered vehicle storage indicates that the entire MRR is now garrisoned here. The barracks/administration area (Figure 2) has undergone a similar upgrading. Since September 1977, seven multistory barracks/administration buildings have been constructed, replacing five single-story barracks/administration buildings and one small multistory barracks/administration building. Three new classroom buildings have also been constructed. The training facilities near this installation include a dual-line tank troop obstacle course, a reconnaissance (recce-man's) obstacle course, four tank firing ranges, three APC firing ranges, three automatic-weapons firing ranges, and two small-arms firing ranges.

8. (S/D) At Kuybyshev AL-5 (Figure 3), there has been no major construction; however, there has been a consistent upgrading of the two MRRs. Since 1977 when a battalion of BMPs first arrived, one MRR has probably received a full complement of BMPs. The other MRR has a mixture of APCs including BTR-40, BTR-152, and BMP. There has also been a considerable variance in the number of APCs observed in the MRR areas since May 1980, which suggests training activity. Between the end of February and mid-March 1980, the AAA regiment, consisting of twenty-five 57mm AA guns S-60, left its vehicle park and it has been observed at Buzuluk AL-1 since May 1980. The area at Kuybyshev AL-5 has been vacant since the departure. The signal battalion for the division reported at MRD Headquarters in Kuybyshev  is at this installation. Kuybyshev AL-5 has a covered vehicle storage capacity for approximately 810 vehicles and open storage for approximately 550 vehicles.

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9. (S/D) At Buzuluk Army Barracks (Figure 4), the AAA regiment moved to this garrison between March and mid-May 1980 from Kuybyshev AL-5. An AAA training area was constructed in the southeast corner. The divisional multiple rocket launcher battalion, the divisional artillery regiment, and the divisional FROG battalion are also at Buzuluk Army Barracks. The garrisoning of these units in one installation facilitates training. Buzuluk has a covered storage capacity for approximately 320 vehicles and approximately 200 vehicles in open storage.

**DOCUMENT**

1. DIA. DDB-1100-UR-79, *Ground Order-of-Battle (GOB)--USSR (U)*, Sep 79 (SECRET/WNINTEL.)



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